

On page 15 replace as a title on line one "Claims" with

-- WE CLAIM: --

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1 - 12 cancelled

13. (new) An airbag cover for an airbag, the airbag disposed within a receiving space of an interior panelling of a vehicle, the airbag cover connected to a panelling part of the interior panelling, the cover comprising:

a flap, said flap closed via predetermined breaking regions or points and structured to open when the airbag is triggered;
and

a connecting element disposed between and connecting said flap to the panelling part, said connecting element having at least one hinge with at least two hinge axes structured to divert part of operating forces of the airbag, which act in an opening direction, into a force transverse to said opening direction at a start of an opening phase of the airbag.

14. (new) The airbag cover of claim 13, wherein said hinge is formed from a material resistant to tensile forces.

15. (new) The airbag cover of claim 13, wherein said hinge is directly connected to a panelling part reinforcement plate and to a flap reinforcement plate.

16. (new) The airbag cover of claim 15, wherein said hinge is formed in one piece with said reinforcement plates, wherein said hinge axes are defined by predetermined bending points in sheet metal.

17. (new) The airbag of claim 13, wherein said hinge is structured as a retaining strap, made from metal or plastic.

18. (new) The airbag cover of claim 13, wherein said hinge comprises a metal or plastic weave.
19. (new) The airbag cover of claim 13, wherein a separation between parallel axes of said hinge axes is adjusted to a thickness of the panelling part.
20. (new) The airbag cover of claim 13, wherein a width of said hinge is adjusted to generate predetermined transverse forces within a temperature range in which the airbag is used.
21. (new) The airbag cover of claim 13, wherein said hinge has at least one opening which controls transverse forces acting on said flap in an opening phase of the airbag cover.
22. (new) The airbag cover of claim 13, wherein said flap has a carrier layer defining a free space proximate to said hinge.
23. (new) The airbag cover of claim 22, wherein said free space is disposed alternately on different sides relative to a reinforcement plate disposed on the panelling part and relative to a reinforcement plate disposed on the flap for controlling a strength of transverse forces acting in an opening phase to tear at said predetermined breaking regions.
24. (new) The airbag cover of claim 13, wherein said flap and the panelling part each have a carrier layer, said hinge being mounted to the panelling part and to said flap on opposing sides of the carrier layers.